

## Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /117 W  
----- 025704

P R 092120Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO USCOMSOLANT PRIORITY

INFO COMDESRON TWO TWO

USS BELKNAP

USS AINSWORTH

USS BORDELON

USDAO CARACAS

CINCLANT FLT NORFOLK

SECSTATE WASHDC 6762

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 1924

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR

SUBJ: UNITAS XV PORT OF SPAIN VISIT NR ONE

REF: USCOMSOLANT 271450 JULY 74; USCOMSOLANT 082242Z  
AUG 74

1. ON RECEIPT OF YOUR 082242Z AUG 74, EMBASSY WAS  
AWAITING WRITTEN CONFIRMATION OF VERBAL ASSURANCES THAT  
ALL UNITAS SHIPS WOULD BE BERTHED KING'S WHARF. QUESTION  
REMAINED WHETHER NESTING OF THREE SHIPS ABREAST REQUIRED  
OR WHETHER TWO OR EVEN THREE VESSELS WERE TO BE BERTHEZK  
ALONGSIDE PIERS.

2. WE HAVE VERIFIED DEPTH OF WATER AT KING'S WHARF AND  
IN ACCESS CHANNEL WITH CHIEF PILOT WHO PILOTED USS  
"TURNER" LAST YEAR. DEPTH OF WATER AT KING'S WHARF  
AND IN ACCESS CHANNEL IS THIRTY ONE FEET. INVIEW OF  
THIRTY ONE FEET NAVIGATION DRAFT BELKNAP, CHIEF PILOT  
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DOES NOT ADVISE KING'S WHARF BERTHING. HOWEVER, EMBASSY

HAD EARLIER ADVISED AUTHORITIES BASED ON JANES FIGHTING SHIPS DATA, THAT NAVIGATIONAL DRAFTS WERE BELKNAP, TWENTY NINE FEET, AINSWORTH, THIRTY FEET, AND BORDELON NINETEEN FEET. RECLARIFICATION OF DRAFTS DESIRED IF KING'S WHARF BERTHING DESIRED FOR EITHER BELKNAP AND AINSWORTH.

3. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, YOUR EARLY GUIDANCE ON COMMUNITY RELATIONS LUNCHEONS AND GENERAL VISITING IS NEEDED. WE HAD HOPED TO FINALIZE LIST OF COMREL INVITEES THIS MONDAY. GENERAL VISITING FROM 1400 TO 1800 MONDAY IS RECOMMENDED. ADVANCE ARRANGEMENTS WILL HAVE TO BE FINALIZED PORT AUTHORITY AND PORT SECURITY PERSONNEL.

4. AMBASSADOR MILLER APPRECIATES YOUR KIND OFFER OF LIQUID REFRESHMENTS AND HORS D'OEUVRES. HE IS DESIROUS OF PUTTING THE UNITAS SHIPS ON SHOW AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE DURING RECEPTION. OTHER NATION'S WARSHIPS HAVE HOSTED MAJOR RECEPTIONS ABOARD SHIP BUT USN LIQUOR REGS NATURALLY PREVENT THIS. OUTSIDE MAJOR EVENT IS UNREALISTIC AS THERE IS HIGH PROBABILITY OF RAIN THIS TIME OF YEAR. SIZE OF AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE PRECLUDES LARGE INDOOR RECEPTION. WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR USE OF LARGE HALL ABOUT ONE HALF MILE FROM KING'S WHARF FOR THE NIGHT OF THE NINETEENTH. WE PROPOSE THAT SHIPS BE OPENED FOR VISITING OF RECEPTION GUESTS WHO WISH TO USE A SHUTTLE SERVICE FROM THE RECEPTION TO THE SHIPS AT KING'S WHARF. WHILE UNUSUAL, THIS WOULD PERMIT INVITEES AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AND SEE THE SHIPS. YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS PROPOSAL APPRECIATED.

5. GUEST LIST BEING FINALIZED TODAY. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF GUESTS TO FOLLOW. HOWEVER, HALL COULD HOLD OVER 500 PERSONS. INVITATIONS IN THE NAME OF AMBASSDOR AND MRS. MILLER AND REAR ADMIRAL DAVID F. EMERSON BEING PREPARED. SINCE INVITATION SHOULD IDEALLY ALLUDE TO INVITATION TO VISIT SHIPS DURING RECEPTION, WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR GUIDANCE SOONEST.

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6. THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO REGIMENTAL BAND HAS BEEN ASKED TO PLAY AT THE RECEPTION. A POPULAR LARGE BAND, THEY PLAYED AT LAST YEAR'S RECEPTION. DANCING IS APPROPRIATE. IN KEEPING WITH TRINIDADIAN INFORMALITY, TROPICAL WHITE LONG IS SUGGESTED. WOULD YOU CLARIFY WHAT HORS D'OEUVRES WOULD BE INCLUDED?

7. PRESS KITS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

8. HANCLASP MATERIAL CITED YOUR 271450Z JULY CAN  
BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED. WE WILL PROVIDE NAMES OF IN-  
STITUTIONS IN A SUBSEQUENT CABLE.  
MILLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740219-0078  
**From:** PORT OF SPAIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 120  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** USCOMSOLANT 271450 JULY 74; USCOMSOL, ANT 082242Z  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** martinjw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2003 by martinjw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UNITAS XV PORT OF SPAIN VISIT NR ONE  
**TAGS:** OCLR  
**To:** USCOMSOLANT STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005